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## On the Hill



The Congress recessed today (February 7) in observance of the Lincoln and Washington birthdays. The Senate will reconvene on Monday, February 17, and the House on Tuesday, February 18.

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The House-Senate conference this week continued its snail-paced consideration of H.R. 7, the school lunch and child nutrition amendments of 1985. They have held three sessions (January 29 and 30, and February 5) and will resume consideration of this measure upon their return from recess.

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-Bill Tlucek

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## New HNIS Publications

Two publications have been recently issued by the Human Nutrition Information Service and are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20250.

USDA's popular "Nutritive Value of Foods," Home and Garden Bulletin

No. 72, is now out in a revised edition, giving the most recent nutrient values from USDA's National Nutrient Data Bank. This edition adds Cholesterol, sodium, RE of vitamin A, and total saturated, monounsaturated, and polyunsaturated fatty acids to the food components reported. The list of foods has also been expanded and now includes more than 900 common items.

USDA  
NATIONAL  
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HG-72 is available from the Superintendent of Documents for \$2.75, stock no. 001-000-04457-5. The data set is also available on tape for computers from the National Technical Information Service in Springfield, VA. (Telephone (703) 487-4650). Data tapes are accession no. PB86-143203/AS (\$90 per set) and diskettes are accession no. PB86-143203/AS (\$90 per set).

Preparing nutritious meals for one or two people can be a real challenge--especially on a limited budget. USDA's new Home and Garden Bulletin No. 244, "Thrifty Meals for Two: Making Food Dollars Count, shows how to prepare good, hearty, nutritious, and economical meals for two people. The bulletin includes 2 weeks of sample menus and over 40 recipes, along with information on planning and serving low-cost meals. The attractive, colorful design features illustrations and large print. HG-244 is available for \$2.50, stock number 001-000-04459-1.

## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GS-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, apply directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

Job Title	Series	Grade	Closing Date	Vacancy Number	Organizational Unit
Contract Specialist**	GS-1102	11/12	02-11-86	86-05	ASD
Management Analyst*** (Detail/Temporary Promotion - NTE 8 months, with possibility of becoming permanent)	GS-343	12/13*	02-11-86	86-06	FNP
Statistician	GS-1530	7/9/11	02-11-86	86-H-01	HNIS
Secretary Typing**	GS-318	5	02-11-86	85-H-35	HNIS

\*Correction made to grade

\*\*Government Wide

\*\*\*FNS Nationwide

ASD - Administrative Services Division

FNP - Family Nutrition Programs

HNIS - Human Nutrition Information Service

## Lisa's Addition to SPAM

It all began quietly in September 1984 when **Michael Montgomery**, the Southwest Region's Deputy Administrator, asked **Lisa Sexton** to do a SPAM tracking system for the region.

After more than 800 hours--many of these spent at home evenings and weekends--and some 5,000 lines of code later, Lisa Sexton has developed a SPAM tracking system that has already been adopted for use nationwide.

What Lisa developed is a computer system that allows tracking of SPAM objectives, and gives management an opportunity to monitor the agency's goals and objectives. It automatically generates quarterly reports and updates via telephone, that can be sent electronically to Headquarters.



**Lisa Sexton** and Southwest's Regional Administrator **Gene Dickey**.

"There are 32 software computer programs involved that I had to write to perform these tasks," says Lisa, a former San Antonio high school teacher and for 4 years a Southwest Region Food Program Specialist, before becoming a management analyst in automated data processing. "One program, for example, prints out all tasks due, or those within a certain objective."

One agency estimate suggests that it would cost at least a quarter of a million dollars to have a similar program developed by an outside vendor. Lisa estimates it would take such a vendor up



**Gene Dickey**, Regional Administrator in the Southwest Region and **Lisa Sexton** with one of the T-shirts they received from Administrator Robert Icard in appreciation of Lisa's SPAM tracking system.

to 2 years to develop a like tracking system because the company would have to familiarize itself with our agency and its programs.

It's been all systems go since November 1984 when Jack Radzikowski, Director of the Office of Regional Operations, was shown Lisa's fruits of labor during his visit to Dallas and said, "I like it; let's do it."

Since then Lisa has been working closely with the Office of Regional Operations. She says she is "essentially out of it now" and that the agency has appointed someone in the national office to maintain the system, although she is still available for consultation.

"She did a remarkable job and carried the project through until completed," said the Regional Director of Financial Management, **Mike McIlwain**, to whom Lisa reports. "She takes pride in her work and deserves to be fully recognized for the fine job."

Considering the fact that Lisa has only taken computer classes at night and she

spent hours working out problems by trial and error, how could she ever write such a program?

"I had to teach myself database," said the 1978 biology graduate from Trinity University in San Antonio. "I learned a lot from our Data Processing Systems Analyst, **Jimmie Davis**, and Management Analyst, **Marion Monk**. "It's like learning grammar. Once you have those basics down, you can adapt them to all sorts of things."



**Lisa Sexton and Jimmie Davis**, Southwest's Data Processing Analyst.

"FNS gave me the opportunity to learn on the job," Lisa said in conversation a year ago, soon after she took on her new job. It's very challenging and I'm constantly learning new things. It's terrific. I've been rejoicing ever since I left the food program specialist job."

Since becoming a management analyst in automated data processing, Lisa has been the first contact for FNS employees in the Southwest who have computer questions or problems. She has the overall responsibility for promoting efficient use of our automated equipment, working with individual programs to evaluate automation potential and training staff in using various software programs.

"This SPAM tracking system was not my job," she admitted. "I'm not a programmer."

## Southeast Region Contributes to King Holiday Celebration



On January 20th, Americans celebrated for the first time the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King with a national holiday. In the Southeast Region, FNS helped remember this American hero in a unique way. Food Program Specialist Mose James worked for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission in Atlanta for 2 months as the commission started events prior to and during the holiday. "It's the first national holiday for Dr. King, and it helps express the dream he had for all people," James said.

As the commission planned for the holiday, James helped the staff in a variety of ways. He answered questions people had about the King holiday celebration and distributed publicity on holiday activities. But his biggest role was helping plan and develop the 127-unit "National March and Parade of Celebration" down Peachtree Street. James approved vendors who wanted to sell Dr. King memorabilia, and he also kept track of donations people made to help stage this parade that depicted the life of Dr. King.

Besides James' contribution, many Southeast Region employees helped support the holiday by attending activities for the 10-day period that culminated in the national holiday celebration.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for Dr. King, his work and accomplishments," James said. "Because of him, America is a much better place to live and work." Thanks to James and his coworkers, many other Americans also better understand the spirit of the holiday and value more highly the dream Dr. King had.